

ABSTRACT

A sign language interpretation system and a sign language interpretation method are provided which are available even in an emergency without prior consultation between a deaf-mute person, a non-deaf-mute person and a sign language interpreter and reservation of an MCU. A sign language interpretation system (100) has a function to interconnect a deaf-mute person terminal, a non-deaf-mute person terminal (310) and a sign language interpreter terminal (320) as well as a function to synthesize a video/audio signal received from each terminal and transmit a synthesized signal to each terminal in order to provide a videophone conversation service via sign language interpretation between the deaf-mute person and the non-deaf-mute person. A controller (180) includes a sign language interpreter registration table (182) where the selection information and terminal number of a sign language interpreter as well as an availability flag are registered. An available sign language interpreter satisfying the selection conditions specified by a caller is selected by way of a call from the deaf-mute person or non-deaf-mute person. The terminal for sign language interpreters and the calling terminal are called and automatically interconnected. A function is provided to register a word difficult to explain and display the word in a telop while a conversation is under way.